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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-4, 7-10, and 12-25, as amended, will be pending. Newly presented claims 21 and 22 reflect the features of previously pending claims 5 and 6 rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 8, 19 and 20 stand objected to for various informalities. The Applicants submit that the above amendments fully address these objections, and therefore respectfully request their withdrawal.

Claims 1-4 and 7-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Breaker (US 5,518,257). The Applicants respectfully submit that Breaker neither teaches or suggests the gasket of the presently claimed invention having an inner peripheral edge being convex and of continuously curved configuration over the full width of the gasket. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Breaker. The Examiner contends that the specific configuration of the frame recited in these claims (new claims 21 and 22), "would be just a matter of design choice".¹ The Breaker design indicates the presence of a central channel, which is necessarily *concave*. This central channel suggests that, upon compression, the lips of the Breaker design can be more easily deformed inwards than in the presently claimed invention. Hence, for a given compression, the sealing pressure on the lips will be lower in the present invention than in Breaker. This fact is further evidenced by Breakers' requirement of spring elements or high fluid pressure to effect sealing. This feature is more apparent when negative pressure may develop, such as may occur during chlor-alkali electrolysis, under such circumstances, this would significantly reduce its sealing effectiveness by exerting a negative internal pressure on the lips of the liner or jacket, potentially pulling them away from the flange to be sealed, whereas the presently claimed design is would remain unaffected.

¹ Office Action mailed June 4, 2004, page 5.

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Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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